

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the parent application (Serial No. 09/515,566), the Examiner: (1) allowed claims 16, 20, and 21; (2) rejected claims 1-7 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and (3) rejected claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, 19 and 22-26 as obvious over various patent references. In the parent application, all claims, but claims 16, 20 and 21, were canceled to permit claims 16, 20 and 21 to issue promptly. Applicants now wish to prosecute the remaining claims. Amendments to the remaining, now pending claims have been repeated from the parent case and are not explained again in this continuation. Claims 16, 20 and 21 are canceled herein because such claims were allowed in the parent case. Claims 8 and 18 were canceled in the parent case and are canceled herein as well. Several additional amendments have been made herein and are discussed below. Based on the arguments and amendments contained herein, Applicants believe all claims to be in condition for allowance.

I. The § 112, second paragraph rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 1 for referring to “an interface connector” twice in the claim. Per the Examiner’s suggestion, Applicants changed the first reference to “an interface connector” to “a first interface connector” and the second reference to “an interface connector” to “a second interface connector.”

The Examiner also rejected dependent claim 7 for allegedly lacking antecedent basis for the limitation “said data bus.” However, claim 7 depends from claim 5 and claim 5 introduces the “data bus” limitation. Thus, Applicants believe there to be no antecedent basis problems with regard to claim 7.

The Examiner also rejected claim 12 under § 112, second paragraph, with regard to the term “a logic low state,” but the nature of the rejection is not clear. The Examiner stated that “[t]here is sufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.” Office Action, page 2 (emphasis added). Applicants agree that there is, in fact, sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation and do not understand how the Examiner could believe otherwise. Clarification is respectfully requested if the Examiner continues to reject claim 12 on this ground.

II. The Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, 19 and 22-26 as obvious over various combinations of patents. More specifically, the Examiner used Stufflebeam (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,106) and/or Hennessy (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,718) in the obviousness rejection under of each of these claims. Section 103(c) provides:

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Applicants filed the present application on February 29, 2000. At that time, the Hennessy and Stufflebeam patents were already filed and pending. The Hennessy and Stufflebeam patents subsequently issued in 2001 and 2002, respectfully. Further, on February 29, 2000, the Hennessy and Stufflebeam patents were (and still are) commonly owned with regard to the present application. Thus, per § 1003(c) neither Hennessy nor Stufflebeam can be used as prior art against the present application. Another patent to Verdun (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,782) was used in the rejection, along with Hennessy and/or Stufflebeam, in various of the claims. Verdun does not teach or suggest all of the limitations for which the Examiner relied on Hennessy and Stufflebeam. At least for these reasons, all pending claims are patentable over the art of record.

III. Amendment to Claim 5

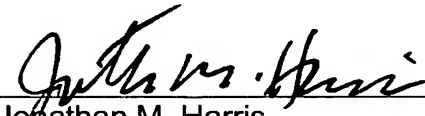
Applicants corrected a typographical error in claim 5. "Disables" has been replaced with "disabled." This amendment was not required by the Examiner and does not narrow the scope of the claim in any way.

CONCLUSION

If any fees or time extensions are inadvertently omitted or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Hewlett-Packard Company Deposit Account Number 08-2025 and enter any time extension(s) necessary to prevent this case from being abandoned.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Harris", is written over a horizontal line.

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